

Application No. 10/709,646
Technology Center 3711
Amendment dated September 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 31, 2006

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for withdrawing the finality of the previous Office Action.

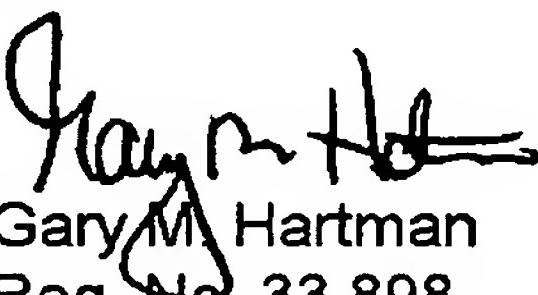
In the present Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-19 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that a previous rejection of claims 1-7 was withdrawn, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC §103, claim 7 (which depends from independent claim 1) was deemed to recite allowable subject matter), and claims 8-19 were allowed. In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate all limitations of its dependent claim 7 (now canceled without prejudice to Applicants), pursuant to the Examiner's conclusion that claim 7 recites allowable subject matter.

Applicants believe that the amendment to independent claim 1 has the effect of complying with the Examiner's determination that dependent claim 7 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §103.

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Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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